





## WAGNER-HEROES.

## TRIUMPH OF SILVER SCREEN.

## WONDERS OF "NIBELUNGS."

The "Seventh Art"—that of the motion-picture—has reached its highest perfection in the German film, being shown at the Queen's Theatre for the last time to-night. Entitled "Die Nibelungen," it dramatizes old Teutonic legends made famous by the world over by Wagner's operas. Nevertheless, the critic Emile Vuillermoz remarks, "We trust that 'Die Nibelungen,' on the screen, as at the opera, will stir the imagination of our artists and instill the spirit of emulation and generous rivalry that produces masterpieces." Writing in "L'Illustration" (Paris), he tells us:—

"The photographs would seem to indicate that, despite hard times, our neighbours can accomplish feats whose scope, method and audacity serve not only as an eye-opener, but as an example. To bring this gigantic work to completion, enormous technical and financial resources have been employed in a coalition of all the forces of the German motion-picture industry. A huge trust, the Ufa Company, whose president is a director of the Berlin Deutsche Bank, proves that the German financiers appreciate the immense importance of motion-pictures as propaganda."

The Nibelungen film is not a direct screen version of Wagner's operas, it seems. The scenario writers, Frau Thea von Harbou, wife of the film director Fritz Lang, is conspicuous in German literary circles. She has handled the legends of the "Ring" in a somewhat original way, giving us not four days but only two: "Siegfried" and "Kriemhild's Vengeance." The story runs thus:

"King Siegmund has entrusted his son Siegfried to the dwarf Mime, who, in a mysterious forest, has set up a forge where he makes enchanted weapons. Soon the pupil becomes as skilful as his master. Armed with a magic sword, he leaves the dwarf's abode and goes to the court of the Burgundians to win the beautiful Kriemhild, King Gunther's sister. Presently he meets a terrible monster, the dragon Lindworm, which no one has ever been able to conquer. Siegfried attacks it, and, after a dreadful struggle, plunges his sword into its body."

"Knowing that the dragon's blood has a miraculous power to make him invulnerable, Siegfried bathes in it, but finds that a leaf from a linden tree stuck to his shoulder and that the spot it covered is still exposed to the dangers of a mortal blow."

"Gunther grants Siegfried his sister's hand, but on strange conditions. Gunther, it seems, desires to win the warrior maid Brunhild, but knows that he is unable to, so he asks his new friend to overcome the invincible lady and bring her to Worms. Siegfried accepts the terms. Thanks to a magic helmet he makes himself look like Gunther, conquers Brunhild and takes her to the court of the Burgundians. Brunhild, not having detected the imposture, marries Gunther, whom she believes to be her conqueror, and Siegfried receives the hand of Kriemhild."

"But the perfidious Hagen reveals the truth to Brunhild, who, filled with anger and shame, demands the death of Siegfried. Hagen treacherously confronts Siegfried and, seeing the vulnerable spot on his shoulder, transfixes it with his javelin. Brunhild, who has been secretly in love with Siegfried, stabs herself and falls dead upon his corpse. Kriemhild swears to avenge her husband's death."

The second reel tells of her revenge:—

"Unable to induce her brother to punish the treacherous Hagen, Siegfried's widow decides to marry Etzel, King of the Huns, who, with his savage horsemen, has come from the deserts of Asia. She lures Gunther and Hagen into her new abode. After many roundabout measures, in the course of which Kriemhild's hate conflicts with the laws of hospitality which her husband is compelled to respect, the Huns and the Burgundians end by slaughtering one another. Gunther and Hagen perish in their turn, and Kriemhild herself is murdered in her burning palace. King Etzel dies with her in its ruins."

As Mr. Vuillermoz explains:—"The new interpreters of the legends have been careful to maintain their independence of Wagnerian traditions so as not to compete with Bayreuth or merely give us one more film of the familiar type. With a certain legitimacy, the author has sought to emphasize the eternal humaneness in these heroic adventures, and, addressing the popular mind and that of the cultured at one

## A VIRILE RACE.

## DUELS TO THE DEATH FOR SPORT.

A race of real "toughs" is described in a "Daily Mail" article by a man who has lived among the gauchos.

The gaucho is a picturesque fellow. Though often illiterate, he has the polished manner of an ambassador, and is seldom rude even when trying to pick a quarrel with a comrade. Rudeness is considered boorish, a tradition handed down by the courtiers of Spain when led by Don Pedro de Mendoza, they came adventuring to the River Plate.

The gaucho knife fight sometimes takes on the ceremonial qualities of a duel. The adversaries, having drawn their sharp and wicked-looking knives, trace the sign of the cross upon the ground, exchanging glances. Then, wrapping their ponchos (capas) round their left arm and holding their rebenques (raw-hide whips) in their left hand and knives in the right, circle round one another, guarding with their muffled left arm and riding whip, watching hawk-like, for an opportunity to strike. The blow when delivered is generally at the stomach with an upward rip.

Cases have been known where the duelling was carried out without motive except for sport, and incredible as it may sound, the man who got in first blow would try not to pierce his adversary's stomach too deeply, so that the man's friends could bind up the gaping wound and carry him away with a chance of life.

## Riding Power.

The old-time hand to this day eats only meat (4-5 lbs. of it daily) and regards vegetables as weeds. None of his forebears ever attempted to milk a cow, and he has himself a low opinion of milk. As for riding a mare! To ask a domador (horse-trainer) of the old-school to do this would be an insult. But bring him a young horse full of fire and pride that has never known the restraining hand of man, and he will rope it and tie a knot in its tail (to keep the tail out of the mud, senior) and sit upon that horse's back through a series of evolutions suggesting a ship in a typhoon.

And when the horse is tired he will leisurely dismount, waddle across to the ombu tree in his enormous spurs and stake his day's earnings in one throw of the taba (hock bone of steer used as a sort of glan dice), and then his silver-mounted whip, his saddle, and—most precious of all his earthly goods—his horse.

The school inspector had reached the lowest class in a South African school. He had tested the children's knowledge of the alphabet by letting them, one by one, name the letters which he pointed out on a chart. Then he reversed the process.

"I don't see the letter R on this chart," he said, frowning at the chart. "They must have forgotten it. Can any one see it?" He chose the tiniest of all the lots whose hands went up. "Well," he said, "you show me where the letter R is."

On tip-toe, by means of a pointer, she could just reach its line on the chart.

"There it is," she almost hissed, "you, stoopid old man."

and the same time, to make of the Nibelungen a romance of love and death with a direct psychological interest. The film has no resemblance to the papier-mâché revivifications of Gothic antiquity so overdone in American studios. Instead, it gives us a beautiful legend treated with simplicity and sincerity, in a spirit of real artistic dignity."

This form of motion-picture "resolutely disregards the dogmas hitherto imposed by alleged commercial shrewdness," we are informed. "It is artistic through-out." The director has rebelled against "the orgies of light that prevail in American films." Here, "the contrasts of black and white, the technique of the etching and the wood-engraving and the whole gamut of light and shade" are utilized with rare virtuosity. And so—

"It is impossible not to be impressed by the example thus set us or to disregard the lesson it teaches. Other nations besides Germany have their national legends—beautiful themes, at once heroic and touching, which stir the feelings of an audience. Instead of squandering enormous sums on romantic or sensational spectacles, or on puerile dramas and melodramas, cannot our motion-picture magnates combine their resources, occasionally as their colleagues in Germany do, and achieve a masterpiece of the same character?"

## COTTON FORECASTS.

## SENATOR ALLEGES INACCURACY.

(Reuter's American Service.)

New York, October 28. Senator Caraway alleges that the Government's forecasts of the cotton crop are inaccurate, costing the planters in the South millions of dollars, and requests that the Government's whole crop-reporting system be subjected to a searching enquiry by Congressional committees. He proposes to introduce a Bill to prevent gambling in cotton and grain in the meantime.

He asserts that Monday's allegedly inaccurate forecast cost the growers over \$50,000,000 and says that if the Government was actually allied with the speculators it could not have co-operated more effectively with the bear element of the Cotton Exchange.

Senator Borah says that he agrees with Senator Caraway in any effort to remove the Government from the gambling business. On the other hand the Department of Agriculture declares its estimates are based on official information and declines to withdraw anything.

## COPPER NOSE.

## FOUR PREHISTORIC WARRIORS.

Swathed in strands of pearls, some of extraordinary size and perfection, the remains of four bodies have been discovered in a mound near Bainbridge, Ohio, during excavations by scientists.

The bodies, two of which were crowned with copper helmets, carved with intricate designs, were surrounded by ornaments of copper, silver, and tortoise-shell.

Also found in the mound were tusks of the grizzly bear, the biggest ever unearthed in a North American mound, and several large pipes, one exquisitely carved with an image of a standing wolf and another with an image of a bear.

Professor H. C. Shetrone, who was present when the discoveries were made, said the fact that the four bodies were found together in the same mound does not indicate that they died together, it being the custom of the ancient tribes to place their dead in a temporary charnel house and then once a year to hold a feast of the dead and place all the bodies at once in a mound with great ceremony.

The nose of one skeleton was made of copper.

Scientists have never been able to agree how long ago the mound builders lived, whether they were an early type of American Indian, or a distinct and separate earlier race.

They hope these new discoveries in America's "Valley of the Kings" will throw light on the subject.

Berlin, October 28.—It is now disclosed that Edmund Stinnes is very secretly visiting the United States, where he intends to settle and to start life afresh. He left his business in Berlin in the hands of his wife and friends who must take charge of the A.G. motor car company.—Reuter.



## WHAT WILL MAKE ME EAT?

Loss of appetite is nature's first warning that something in the complicated machinery of the system has gone wrong. And that something is invariably the blood. Good blood helps the digestive organs in their work by supplying them with the strength they constantly need. If the blood is impoverished and weak, these organs fail to receive the assistance and the first complaint they make is to cease to call for food. Poor appetite never comes alone; it is generally accompanied by indigestion, headaches, bad taste in the morning, rising from bed, coated tongue, lassitude and lack of "tone" throughout the day.

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## FORGOT HIS RICHES.

## WINDFALL FOR THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT.

How a rich man apparently forgot that he had deposited a large sum with a bank in Calcutta, so that in time the amount grew into an enormous fortune, has just been disclosed.

The revenue of Ceylon is expected to benefit to the tune of over \$135,000 as the result of the duty payable on the estate of the late Mr. Elias Meyer, of Calcutta, who has left a sum exceeding 101 lakhs of rupees on fixed deposit in a Colombo bank.

Mr. Meyer, who died in London last April, was a prominent merchant of London and Calcutta, and is said never to have set foot on Ceylon soil. He is closely related by marriage to the Sassoon family, of Bombay, Bagdad, and London, and it seems that several years ago he placed 44 lakhs of rupees in fixed deposit at 5 per cent. in the Colombo Bank, and latter added a further deposit, bringing the total sum of £2367,500.

The interest was not touched, with the result that the original deposits were more than doubled. It is understood that this huge sum in ready cash in Ceylon represents only a very small portion of the late Mr. Meyer's estate.

## COST OF LICENCE.

## WOMAN WHO CHANGED HER MIND.

If you buy a railway ticket and do not use it your money is refunded.

If you buy a marriage licence and the bride will not marry you, you lose your money.

A bridegroom, who while on his way to a Fulham church to be married, received a telegram from his bride curtly intimating that her affections had changed and that she was not going to be married, had made application to an ecclesiastical register office in Doctors' Commons, E.C., for the return of his money.

The licence was obtained, and all arrangements had been made. For the Faculty Office licence the bridegroom paid £2, 10s. of this sum being for the official stamp.

When the bridegroom's request for the return of his money was received the officials were astounded. No money can be returned by the ecclesiastical offices after a licence has been issued, as the matter is entered in the official calendar. All the bridegroom can claim from the State is the 10s. stamp duty.

If he obtains a declaration from the vicar of the church that his licence has not been used, and takes it with his licence to Somerset Houses, where he makes another declaration, the authorities may refund the 10s.

The wedding group was brought out for inspection, and the likenesses were pronounced excellent. All but one—that of the bridegroom.

"Whatever made him look like that? He looks as if he'd got apoplexy," inquired the visitor.

The proud mother replied brightly: "There! I wondered whether you'd notice our George, poor boy! But it was the photographer's fault. George was just taking a deep breath when the photographer calls out, 'Keep just as you are!' And the poor boy had to hold his breath for nearly three minutes before he'd got 'em right and taken the group. Fit to burt he were!"

## HONGKONG TIDE.

The tide-table given below has been compiled at the National Almanac Office in London from the result of the analysis of observations taken by means of an automatic tide-recording machine at the Water Police Basin at Tsim Sha Tsui during the years 1908-9.

The zero of the table corresponds with the zero of the sounding in the Admiralty Chart, which has been found to be 4 feet 3 inches below mean low water.

To obtain the depth of water on the tide gauge at the Victoria Naval Yard add 8 feet 4 inches, and on the gauge at Lamont Dock, Aberdeen, add 10 feet 4 inches to the height given in the table.

Date.		Time.		Tide.	
Day.	Month.	Hour.	Min.	Height.	Depth.
1	10	12	00	1.2	10.8
1	10	12	30	1.5	10.5
1	10	12	00	1.8	10.2
1	10	12	30	2.1	9.9
1	10	12	00	2.4	9.6
1	10	12	30	2.7	9.3
1	10	12	00	3.0	9.0
1	10	12	30	3.3	8.7
1	10	12	00	3.6	8.4
1	10	12	30	3.9	8.1
1	10	12	00	4.2	7.8
1	10	12	30	4.5	7.5
1	10	12	00	4.8	7.2
1	10	12	30	5.1	6.9
1	10	12	00	5.4	6.6
1	10	12	30	5.7	6.3
1	10	12	00	6.0	6.0
1	10	12	30	6.3	5.7
1	10	12	00	6.6	5.4
1	10	12	30	6.9	5.1
1	10	12	00	7.2	4.8
1	10	12	30	7.5	4.5
1	10	12	00	7.8	4.2
1	10	12	30	8.1	3.9
1	10	12	00	8.4	3.6
1	10	12	30	8.7	3.3
1	10	12	00	9.0	3.0
1	10	12	30	9.3	2.7
1	10	12	00	9.6	2.4
1	10	12	30	9.9	2.1
1	10	12	00	10.2	1.8
1	10	12	30	10.5	1.5
1	10	12	00	10.8	1.2
1	10	12	30	11.1	0.9
1	10	12	00	11.4	0.6
1	10	12	30	11.7	0.3
1	10	12	00	12.0	0.0
1	10	12	30	12.3	-0.3
1	10	12	00	12.6	-0.6
1	10	12	30	12.9	-0.9
1	10	12	00	13.2	-1.2
1	10	12	30	13.5	-1.5
1	10	12	00	13.8	-1.8
1	10	12	30	14.1	-2.1
1	10	12	00	14.4	-2.4
1	10	12	30	14.7	-2.7
1	10	12	00	15.0	-3.0
1	10	12	30	15.3	-3.3
1	10	12	00	15.6	-3.6
1	10	12	30	15.9	-3.9
1	10	12	00	16.2	-4.2
1	10	12	30	16.5	-4.5
1	10	12	00	16.8	-4.8
1	10	12	30	17.1	-5.1
1	10	12	00	17.4	-5.4
1	10	12	30	17.7	-5.7
1	10	12	00	18.0	-6.0
1	10	12	30	18.3	-6.3
1	10	12	00	18.6	-6.6
1	10	12	30	18.9	-6.9
1	10	12	00	19.2	-7.2
1	10	12	30	19.5	-7.5
1	10	12	00	19.8	-7.8
1	10	12	30	20.1	-8.1
1	10	12	00	20.4	-8.4
1	10	12	30	20.7	-8.7
1	10	12	00	21.0	-9.0
1	10	12	30	21.3	-9.3
1	10	12	00	21.6	-9.6
1	10	12	30	21.9	-9.9
1	10	12	00	22.2	-10.2
1	10	12	30	22.5	-10.5
1	10	12	00	22.8	-10.8
1	10	12	30	23.1	-11.1
1	10	12	00	23.4	-11.4
1	10	12	30	23.7	-11.7
1	10	12	00	24.0	-12.0
1	10	12	30	24.3	-12.3
1	10	12	00	24.6	-12.6
1	10	12	30	24.9	-12.9
1	10	12	00	25.2	-13.2
1	10	12	30	25.5	-13.5
1	10	12	00	25.8	-13.8
1	10	12	30	26.1	-14.1
1	10	12	00	26.4	-14.4
1	10	12	30	26.7	-14.7
1	10	12	00	27.0	-15.0
1	10	12	30	27.3	-15.3
1	10	12	00	27.6	-15.6
1	10	12	30	27.9	-15.9
1	10	12	00	28.2	-16.2
1	10	12	30	28.5	-16.5
1	10	12	00	28.8	-16.8
1	10	12	30	29.1	-17.1
1	10	12	00	29.4	-17.4
1	10	12	30	29.7	-17.7
1	10	12	00	30.0	-18.0
1	10	12	30	30.3	-18.3
1	10	12	00	30.6	-18.6
1	10	12	30	30.9	-18.9
1	10	12	00	31.2	-19.2
1	10	12	30	31.5	-19.5
1	10	12	00	31.8	-19.8
1	10	12	30	32.1	-20.1
1	10	12	00	32.4	-20.4
1	10	12	30	32.7	-20.7
1	10	12	00	33.0	-21.0
1	10	12	30	33.3	-21.3
1	10	12	00	33.6	-21.6
1	10	12	30	33.9	-21.9
1	10	12	00	34.2	-22.2
1	10	12	30	34.5	-22.5
1	10	12	00	34.8	-22.8
1	10	12	30	35.1	-23.1
1	10	12	00	35.4	-23.4
1	10	12	30	35.7	-23.7
1	10	12	00	36.0	-24.0
1	10	12	30	36.3	-24.3
1	10	12	00	36.6	-24.6
1	10	12	30	36.9	-24.9





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## MOTOR NOISES.

Time was when complaint was made at the noises made by certain members of the Chinese community. Their method of conversation, expectation, and the clanging of cymbals and the firing of crackers on ceremonial and other occasions, lacerated nerves and made for irritation. Wise regulations have mitigated at least one of these things. Generally speaking, matters have not improved in certain directions. Noise has been added to until it is almost permissible to alter the old designation of a city of fragrant streams to a city of dreadful night—or noises. Modernism may bring benefits in its train, but it also has its disadvantages. Serious complaint reaches the "China Mail" of the noise made by motor vehicles of all descriptions. It is alleged that much of this noise is unnecessary. In many cases it exhibits a sense of indifference and selfishness which should be repressed if it is at all possible to do so. A judge in the days of the vogue of the push bicycle, once said that a cyclist rang his bell to let you know he was coming. If you were wrong in a traffic sense you amended your ways; if not you kept on your own way bearing in mind that a cyclist was not far distant. The thing sounds reasonable. Would that judge adopt the same reasoning with regard to motor vehicles? Generally a motor hoot is to indicate that the pedestrian must get out of the way at the earliest. The road is for ever to the swiftly moving vehicle; the sidewalk to the pedestrian. We need not argue on this. Complaint is almost general that motor horns are, in a majority of cases, used harshly, too frequently, and not at the right time. No one who has had his flesh made good suddenly cold by the furious sound of a moment overwhelms him, will dispute such a fact as this. Another thing mentioned is that parking places, are very often abused. It is alleged by residents of the Hotel that the noise made by cars and cycles at all hours of the evening, is something more than a joke; it interferes with the comfort and rest of the Hotel's clients, and should be stopped. One method of stopping it would be to regulate the hours of parking. If the Hotel is compelled to close its doors at midnight, it seems reasonable to suggest that no car or cycle should be allowed to be on this particular stand after midnight. The matter certainly needs investigation, more so in view of the allegation that the noise made by cars can be heard in the early hours of the morning. On the general question of noises—we refer all through to what may be deemed unnecessary noises—the problem is difficult of solution. The pedestrian will allege one thing in this respect, and the driver another. Perhaps a remedy can be found in regulating the speed of cars in the centre of the town to the lowest possible minimum, in this way, perhaps, avoiding the use of the horn to the extent which now prevails. Another method would be to give definite instructions to Chinese drivers—who presumably are in the majority—on this question of noise, and if it can be done, to make the intelligent use of the horn a part of the granting of a licence. Other suggestions will be made in the course of the article. We give publicity to the matter, not merely for having had a complaint on your own way bearing in mind that a cyclist was not far distant. The thing sounds reasonable.

## CORRESPONDENCE

LAW TERMS.

(To the Editor of the China Mail.)

Sir,—Arising out of the Criminal Sessions case yesterday in which a Chinese was charged with receiving three tins of milk, I would like to question the advisability of the use of the words "well knowing them to have been stolen," which I believe are the words actually used in charge sheets, when a man is brought up with stolen goods. I strongly object to this wording, as it is purely a prejudice against the accused, and in all probability, it may cause the members of the Jury to create an impression that the accused when arrested, had guilty knowledge that the goods were stolen property. The wording which I am complaining certainly cannot be employed as it is unnecessary. If a man is arrested with stolen property, let it be stated in the charge sheet by all means, that "the accused is charged with stolen property (believed to have been stolen)," and it remains for the Court to hear how the accused came in possession of it. One cannot fairly accuse another for full knowledge of anything when really he knows nothing even the faintest portion of it. I compliment the members of the Jury for giving their careful attention to this case, and particularly, the consideration which they took in unanimously agreeing that the accused had no guilty knowledge that the milk was stolen property. It all depends on how guilty knowledge comes in and evidence in connection with it is essential before the Court can acquit a man with the full guilt. I say it is a dangerous practice with the wording in the charge sheet, as any law-abiding citizen would have the occasion of meeting a magistrate on that "grave" charge. Supposing my eight vendor who committed a theft of cigars, (the boxes of which were marked) and sent me my usual box of cigars out of these, will I have the guilty knowledge that my box is stolen property, and will I know what is the meaning of my arrest before an explanation is given?

I hope that proper measures be taken in future in the Police Department to give the correct wording on a charge sheet. Mistakes are bound to come sometimes, but it must not be made too serious, as there was an occasion in which "murder" was in place of "manslaughter" in a case elsewhere, and I would like to give another example of carelessness when a man was charged on several counts, one of which was "the possession of a revolver." Evidence was against the accused that he was seen with the revolver at the time of the attack, but the Court officials failed to produce the revolver mentioned, as it was not in accused's person when he was arrested. A member of the Jury, challenged the charge and demanded that the revolver be produced in Court but the officials failed and the charge was immediately dismissed. Charge sheets are not waste-paper that you can scribble on!

Yours, etc.

HONGKONG, October 28.

## LOCAL WEDDING.

GRANTHAM—SAMSON.

Followed by a reception at the Hongkong Hotel, the wedding took place yesterday at St. John's Cathedral Hall of Miss Maurine Samson, daughter of Mrs. Libby Neal of San Francisco, U.S.A., and Mr. Alexander George Grantham, son of Madame Munthe, of Peking and of the late Mr. F. W. Grantham (also grandson of the late Mr. Justice Grantham). The officiating clergyman was the Rev. T. B. Powell. The bride, who was charmingly attired in ivory satin, and georgette crepe embroidered with pearls, was given away by Sir Claude Severn, K.B.E., C.M.G., and was attended by her sister, Mrs. J. N. McCune as Matron of Honour, dressed in two shades of orchid crepe over silver cloth. The bridegroom was accompanied by Mr. W. Richardson, who acted in the capacity of "best man." Both before and at the conclusion of the service, Mr. Mason, the Cathedral organist, played suitable wedding music. A reception was afterwards held at the Hongkong Hotel, where the friends of the bride and bridegroom assembled to offer their congratulations and to participate in the happy proceedings. Later, Mr. and Mrs. Grantham left for their honeymoon, the bride wearing a dress of two shades of pink and cream, and the groom in a dark suit.

## SHREDS AND PATCHES.

OCTOBER 29, 1664. Up, and it being my Lord Mayor's show, my boy and three maids went out; but it being a very foul rainy day from morning till night, I was sorry my wife let them go out.

PEPYS.

REASON. Certainly Mr. Percy Simpson, fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, had much reason on his side in the plea he made at a recent meeting in London, arranged by the Simplified Spelling Society. "Why, in the name of common sense," he asked, "could we not revert to such simple historical spellings as 'plow' for 'plough,' as in the Authorized Version of the Bible, and 'tho' for 'though,' as in the poems of Tennyson?" And it is difficult to find an answer to his question which gives satisfaction. If English is destined to become at some time, in the future, an international language, as seems highly probable, surely no one will maintain that its progress toward that goal will in any wise be aided by the myriad unreasonable complications of orthodox orthography. This is not advocating a wholesale departure from established standards of spelling, but shutting one's eyes to the fact that many words in the English language are spelled according to no rhyme or reason is not conducive to its larger use.

There is a considerable A FORTUNE sum of money awaiting the person able to invent something which will keep cockroaches and worms from books.

## THE FUNNY MAN.

Crowns are born to an irony so obvious that the public can never see the gambols of Joey without imagining the garret and the invalid, says the "Manchester Guardian." The famous "Alas, sir, I am Grimaldi!" is attributed to many another jester, and the public revels heartily in what Mr. Willson Disher, the author of "Clowns and Pantomimes," just published by Messrs. Constable and Co., calls "sad stories of the death of clowns."

The circus itself is compact of ironies. The shabby procession in the rain, the humiliated animals and the raggle-baggle showmen whom one meets wearily seeking elusive sixpences, in seaside towns are as dismal a contrast with the spirit of mirth as cruel ingenuity could fashion. These days, moreover, are riggurdly occasions for the clown: The growth of public conscience about the exploitation of animals (except in Latin countries) causes the circus to dwindle; leave out the vexed question of cruelty and the sorry futility of the waiting pony remains to drive decent people from the tent. The clown must suffer for the showman's sins. But the clown is not to be extinguished lightly. Mr. Disher's admirable researches into all the highways and by ways of "clownship" show that Nomus is as slippery as Proteus. Yorick can change a disguise to meet a changing taste; when antics fail he can turn actor. Slap-stick is out of fashion now, and not long ago some Continental tumbler, who was "star" turns in European vaudeville, were hoisted by the first night gallery at an English revue. But "clownship" is not dead because he who gets slapped is also a fantastical dumb-show that owes almost nothing to the old convention of horse-play, and Chaplin conquers the world by lifting the clown's business into the nipping air where comedy and tragedy mingle. Clownship, it might be thought, is essentially a matter of ritual, but the great clowns have been protesting against the tyranny of a rigid technique.

One of the most interesting sections of Mr. Disher's book is his full length study of Grimaldi, in which emphasis is laid on Grimaldi's innovation of the "construction" trick. "This was based on a playful confusion of mechanism and organism, out of what seemed to be a bundle of 'properties'—clown or harlequin—would emerge. From what appeared to be the contents of a household cupboard he would himself emerge as a new band. Grimaldi conferred to the clown's ritual of an unhappy and premature old age, but in manner and health but not in friends. The clown of the Mephisto of German vaudeville, in Pantomime, was a

Book-lovers and collectors—the Shreds man hesitates to say there may be a distinction in the classification—are continually vexed by the raids on their books. The matter is best expressed by a correspondent to the "Times Literary Supplement" writing from Barbados:

May I through your columns make an appeal to British publishers and bookbinders? In this, as also, I believe, in other tropical countries, one's most treasured books are sooner or later riddled with tunnels by a grub, apparently the larva of a beetle. A volume not in daily use is almost certain to be damaged or destroyed. Various liquids are procurable which at least discourage these pests; but these do no good to delicate bindings, and not all are effective. But I have noticed that French and German bound books are absolutely immune. On these I never put any "protective" solution, but they are never touched. I presume, therefore, that some ingredient—arsenic, perhaps—is used by Continental but not by British binders.

It would be a great boon to book-lovers residing in the tropics to be assured of the safety of their treasures; to me personally it would mean the removal of a deterrent. There are few vexations more acute than to find a valued and perhaps irreplaceable volume marred and mutilated.

I trust I may succeed in drawing to this matter the attention of some at least of our producers of books.

I have something still left, for your judgment's approval. Which I wish to dispose of, before my removal.

A case with two fiddles of excellent sound.

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So Dr. Friend Tom, remains yrs till I die

The once merry, Momo, poor Joe Grimaldi.

I shall quit Woolwich soon, for another situation

And glad enough shall I be to return from transportation—

Once more enjoy Society, the Song the glee and laugh

Tell odd story's, think of present, but not forget the past.

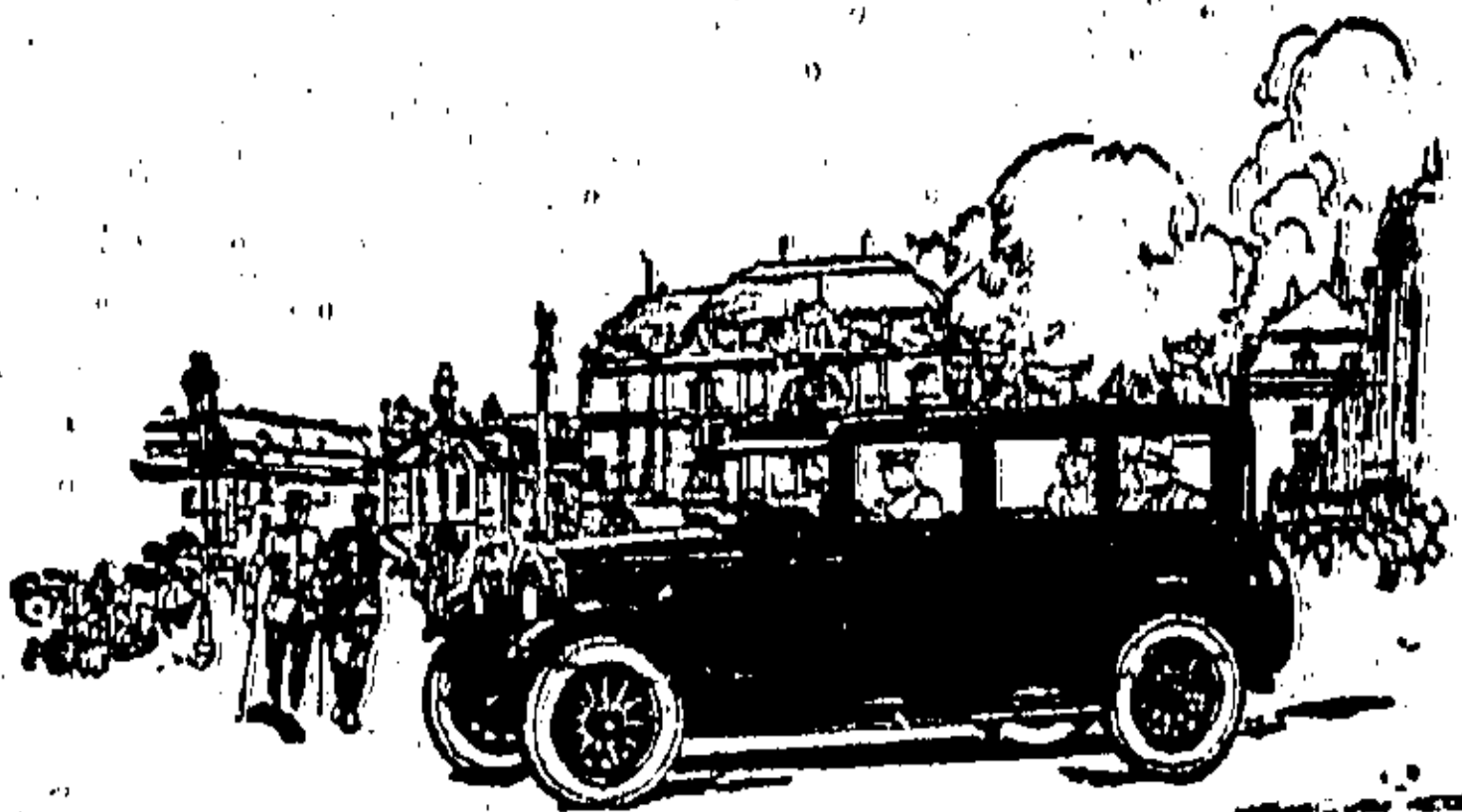
Be Merry and wise for Time approaches fast

For death will you know have the odd trick at last.

Mr. Disher, as a connoisseur of clowns, has treated his subject in the fullest historical-analytical manner. He has burrowed into countless archives, particularly with regard to the Clerkenwell school of motley, and he has included an interesting biography of Grock. "Tell odd story's, think of present, but not forget the past" is a line that does some justice to his energy in research and his broad survey of modern jesters on the screen, in the music-hall, and in pantomime. His account of the latter suffers from excessive attention to the details of the eighteenth-century pseudo-classical Harlequin plays, since these appear to have deserved the fate which killed them off. In place of this, a fuller account of the nineteenth-century pantomime which has survived would have been welcome. Mr. Disher is plainly the man to reconstruct any phase of buried showmanship. He has a consuming passion for the clown's company and delves without weariness in the wilderness of old play-bills and playhouse scripts. His book is equipped with many old prints, from public collections and from his own, which are, in the fullest sense, "illustrations" for they are apt to the text and enlighten the mysteries of clownship's developing technique.

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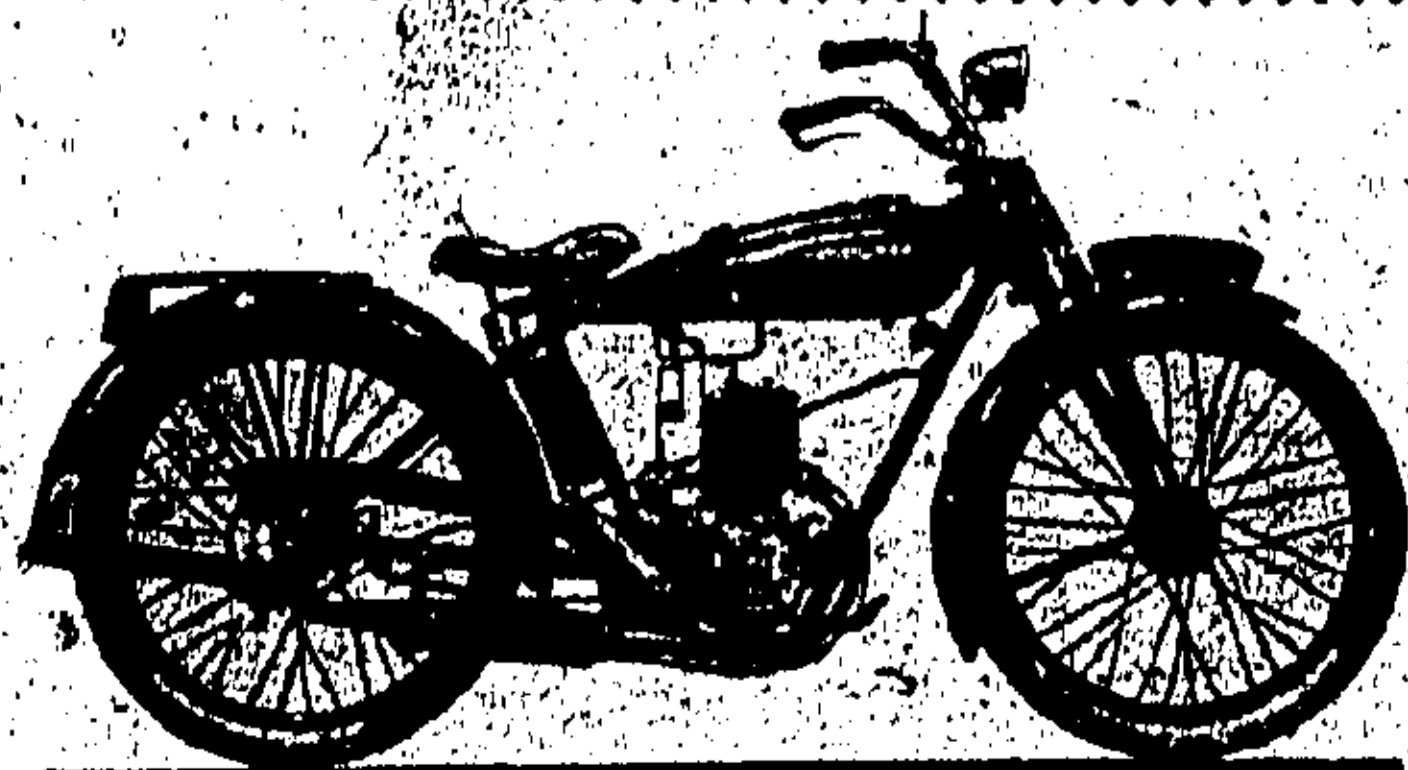
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# LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The return of "notifiable" diseases for the 24 hours ended Tuesday, shows a clean record.

The official opening of the new Y.M.C.A. building in Kowloon will take place at the latter end of November.

The silk shipped per s.s. "President Madison," which sailed from Hongkong at 5 p.m. on September 30, arrived New York at midnight on October 24—having been 24 calendar days in transit.

All meals for and after November 2 needed at Fanling should be ordered at Cafe Wise-man before 8.30 p.m. on the day before they are required. Rooms should be booked through the Secretary.

The Shanghai Races begin on November 2, and continue to November 4, with an extra meeting on November 7. The "Empress of Canada," sailing from here on October 30, arrives in Shanghai on November 1, allowing race enthusiasts an opportunity to get settled before the Races open.

To-night is the last showing of "Siegfried" at the Queen's Theatre. The musical setting is in keeping with this superb picture, and a word in praise of Professor Gonzalez and his men is well merited. It is not every day that Hongkong gets a whole series of Wagner excerpts at a sitting. The picture from every point of view is an unalloyed delight.

The first championship of the Shek-O Club is to be played on Sunday. There are thirty entries, which include a number of prominent players. Mr. A. H. Ferguson who captained the Hongkong Inter-club team against Shanghai last year is the favourite. Playing over the course last Wednesday he did a 75, which is regarded as a very creditable achievement. R. Hancock and Capt. Bloxham are also expected to be well in the running.

Mr. Harry Ore is to give his first piano recital of the season next Tuesday in the City Hall. He will be assisted by Mrs. R. Sanger.

The Cape to Cairo Crossley motor expedition, commanded by Major Court Treant, reached Nairobi on September 30, having covered 7,800 miles. The journey was most difficult, otherwise there was no incident.

As many as 768 Filipino labourers have returned from Hawaiian Sugar plantations during the third quarter of the year, compared to 701 during the same period last year. During July, August and September, 608 men, 72 women and 88 minors, returned as compared with 567 men, 57 women and 87 minors during the same period last year. Filipino emigrants to Hawaii last month totalled 246 men, one woman and eight minors.

In the course of proceedings at the Assembly of the League of Nations, Mrs. Mackinnon (Australia), in supporting the report dealing with relief for Armenian women and children, made the remarkable statement that Armenian women, kept in Turkish harems, were disfigured, their faces being tattooed. "But," she added, "it must be to the eternal credit of the Armenian men that they are glad and proud to marry those women, and give them comfortable homes."

There is a new business venture which seems both interesting and profitable. A man with a liking for anything in the way of soldering tin articles decided to fit up a travelling motor-van, and stocked it with ironmongery of every description in carefully fitted shelves, in addition to his soldering outfit. He toured the most inaccessible parts of the country and gradually formed regular rounds. Then his two sons took up the same trade, in other new districts. Each now has his own private car and employs a mechanic. Of course, they pay no rates, and only selected taxes.

At a luncheon given by the Council and members of the Japan Society in honour of Major Abe, Mr. Kawachi and their flight companions, Colonel the Master of Sempill, who headed a British aviation mission in Japan recently, paid a high tribute to the airmen's courage and skill in finding a landing-place in a strange country, despite dense fog and darkness.

A girl costs from 15 to 17 yaks (oxen) in Kashagaria and the supply of girls is so small that they are generally spoken for before birth. The father of the prospective bride-groom usually takes an option from the prospective parent of the bride and pays one yak down before the birth of the girl, and sometimes even before the birth of the bride-groom. The other payments are due annually until completed.

At a banquet at Parliament House, Melbourne, Mr. Arthur Moore of the "Calcutta Statesman," speaking on behalf of India, said Mr. Bruce's announcement that domiciled Indian subjects of the King-Emperor would be given full civic rights would be read with pleasure in India. Between India and Australia there was an ever-increasing strategic bond. Both were faced with a common danger and their safety lay in the cohesion of the Empire.

Captain K. B. Lowry, commander of the round-the-world Dollar liner "President Garfield," says he encountered an unusual submarine freak in mid-July, while passing the northern end of the Island of Sumatra. He encountered a submarine earthquake, immediately followed by a huge eruption of oil from the ocean bed. The oil eruption bubbled to the surface like a gigantic geyser and spread for a distance of more than two miles in circumference. Captain Lowry said that at the time of the oil eruption a heavy swell was running but the copious quantities of oil calmed the sea to mill-pond quietness.

# SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Mr. T. J. Gaisford-St. Lawrence, H.E., the Governor's Private Secretary, is a passenger for home to-morrow on the "Empress of Canada."

Mr. D. A. Goodwin is a passenger on the "President Jefferson" which left yesterday for Manila.

His Excellency the Governor attended by the Official Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils were entertained at the Hongkong Club yesterday at 11 p.m. by the Unofficial Members of both Councils. A handsome silver loving cup was presented to the Governor as a token of their esteem and regard.

Mr. D. M. Goodall playing over the Deep Water Bay course last week did the eighth, 120 yards, with his tee shot. Mr. J. M. Walker has been credited with a similar achievement at Manila.

Surgeon Commander N. S. Meiklejohn has been appointed to H.M.S. "Tamar."

Mr. T. G. Patterson, is a passenger on the "President Jefferson" which left for Manila yesterday.

Command Orders state that Captain J. M. Hunt, 5/2nd Punjab Regiment, has returned from India.

Four girl typists, of the Foreign Office, have been selected to accompany Japan's delegates to the Customs Conference in Peking. They are Miss Fumiko Sugawara, Miss Yoko Tomita, Miss Kiyoko Shibata, and her sister, Miss Oriye Shibata. This is the first time that Japanese girls will attend an International conference as typists.

The marriage of Miss Margaret Irene McMurray and Mr. Harold Trezise, both of Yokohama, will be solemnized on October 31. The marriage will take place in Yokohama.

At the Palace of His Lordship Bishop José da Costa Nunes last Saturday, a large assembly gathered to witness the conferring of the Insignia of the Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great upon Mr. Francisco Anacleto da Silva, Senator for Macao. There was at the same time a Concert of Sacred Music, contributed by pupils of the Seminario de S. José, of this city under the very able conductorship of Father Maberni.

Mrs. E. Alice Tweddle, the English author and artist who has been visiting China, left Shanghai for home, via Canada, by the steamer "Empress of Asia."

In celebration of the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, the "Consul-General for Japan in Hongkong" will receive members of the foreign community at the Hongkong Hotel on Saturday between 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.

Under the auspices of H.M.S. "Ambrose," a dance is to be held in the R.N. Canteen Theatre, to-morrow evening. The ship's company of the "Ambrose" have arranged a carnival dance to take place on November 6.

Miss L. Schoen, an artist from Holland, who has been travelling round the world, painting its most picturesque places and people, is at present in Shanghai and hopes to arrange for an exhibition of her oil paintings in the near future.

Mr. Stirling Fossenden has consented to open the new camp for the Shanghai Boy Scouts Association on the Hungjao Road on Armistice Day at 2.30 p.m. The annual Jamboree will be held on the same afternoon and the President of the Rotary Club will present the Rotary Shield to the winning Troop at the conclusion of the competition. Mr. S. Barton will present the Fraser Shield to the Wolf Cubes.

One of the most interested spectators of the army manoeuvres has been Prince Chichibu of Japan, who has returned from Scotland specially for the purpose. His Imperial Highness already holds a commission in a Japanese infantry regiment, and has, of course, a very thorough knowledge of modern military tactics. The prospect of seeing them directly applied, and watching the results, was one that appealed to him greatly, and it is safe to say that no part of his stay has given him greater pleasure than the four days' mimic warfare in the south. The Prince has, however, greatly enjoyed the Scottish season at Invermoriston, and has been a popular figure at many of the Highland gatherings, in which he has taken the keenest interest. His English, by the way, has now greatly improved, thanks to diligent study, and he is now quite proficient in its use.

Capt. R. D. Bennett, M.C., of the Middlesex Regiment, has been promoted to the rank of Major.

Katherine Wynne, a maid to Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, who served in the same capacity with Mrs. Warren G. Harding and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, has just appeared in Supreme Court of the District of Columbia and announced that she wanted to become an American citizen. She said she came to the United States from Ireland in 1905 and still was a British subject.

The public has only 9 1/2 years more in which to hear Mr. John McCormack singing for personal profit. The great tenor has decided at 40 1/2 to give this unusually long notice possibly to obviate the numerous last appearances which have become a singer's tradition. Fifty seems an early age to choose, a well-trained and carefully used voice, as Santley and Jean de Reszke showed, lasting almost as long as life itself. But opera makes enormous demands on both voice and vitality. Mr. McCormack will very likely appear in Hongkong.

A large collection of recently acquired souvenirs awaits the inspection of the Prince of Wales on his return to St. James's Palace. Every place visited during his lengthy tour has brought forth a host of gifts, which are packed up at regular intervals and dispatched to London in large wooden boxes. In all probability the number of "tokens of esteem" bestowed upon the Prince constitutes a record even for a Royal tour. In many cases, the gifts have been made with practical intent, and riding whips and cigarette cases play a prominent part.

Ever since Mrs. Nina Bang became the first woman Danish Minister, and as such also, the Head of the Board of Education, she has done the unexpected. First the singing of the national anthem was banned, which she claimed was too warlike to benefit the public good. And when, despite her prohibition, the anthem was inadvertently sung in a theatre in which she happened to be, the Minister remained seated and, moreover, pulled her colleagues of the Cabinet back into their seats by their coat tails. Mrs. Bang plans reconstruction of the Danish school system according to the German method.

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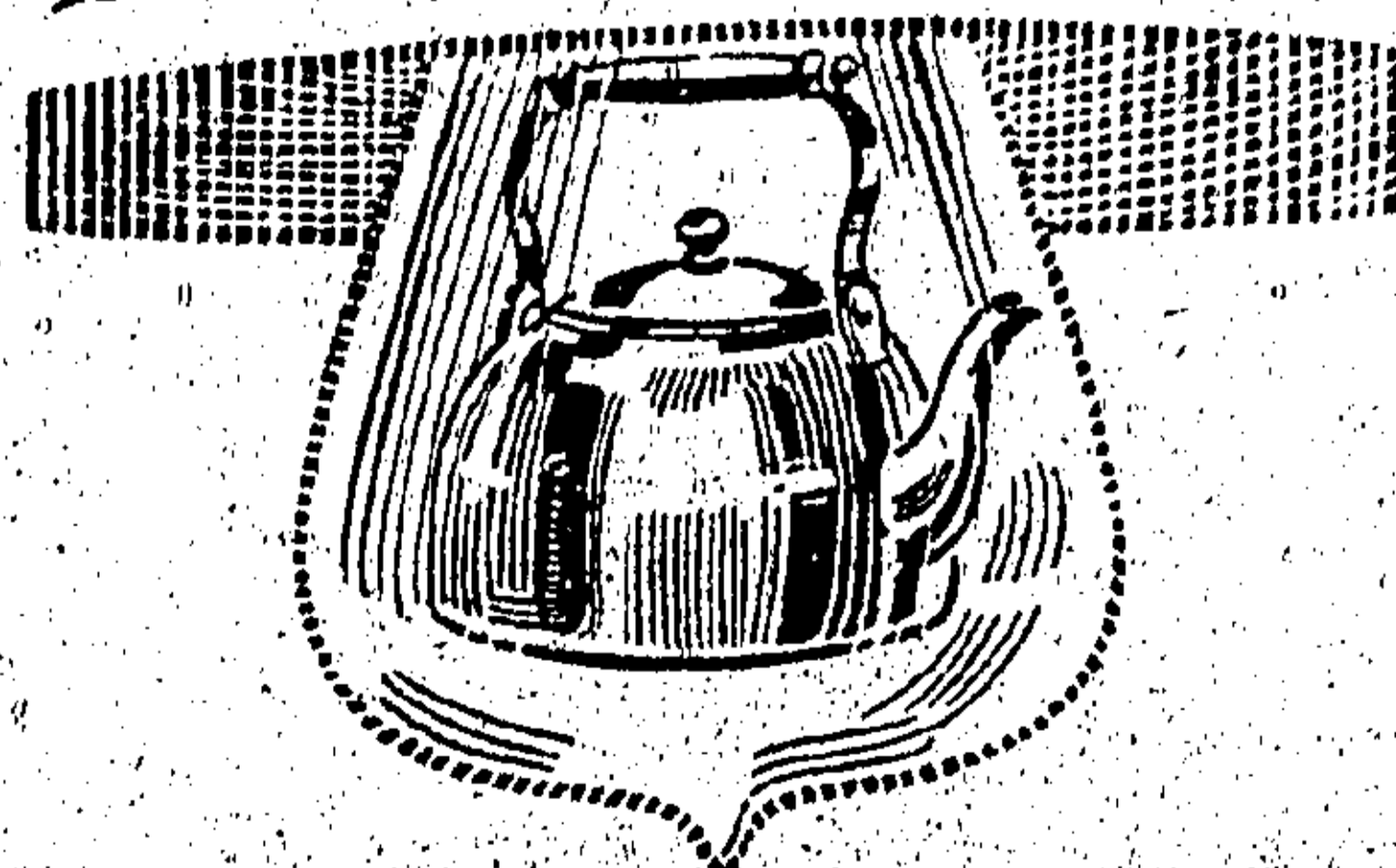
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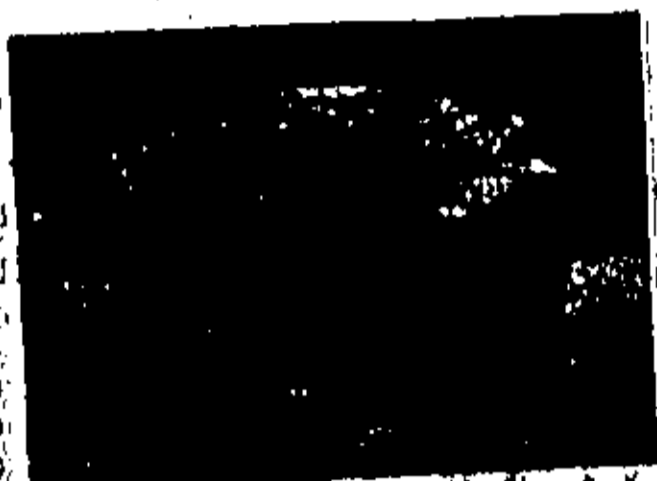
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The ever youthful Fanny Ward, stage and screen actress. Her looks are those of a vivacious flapper of to-day.

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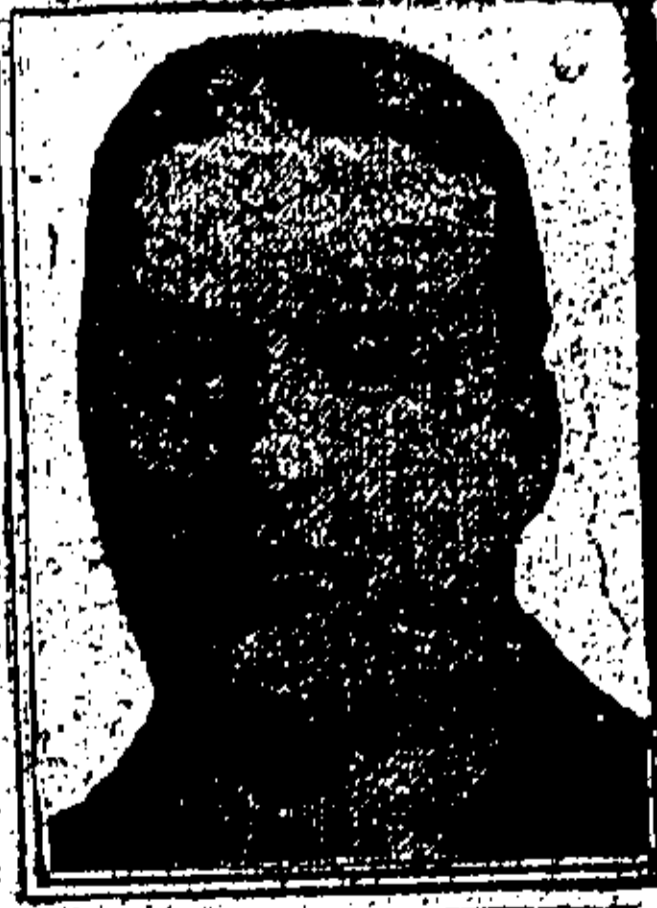
Employees in various industrial plants whose duties bring them in contact with dangerous chemicals are now protected with this type of gas mask.



Jules Munthum has collection of ninety-eight Rodins, which he will present to Philadelphia as an exhibit at the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition.



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LORD DONOUGHMORE



MISS HOPE HAWKINS



WILLIAM CLIVE ROGERS

Pierre Renaudin, French Socialist leader, announced his intention of presenting a collection of Rodins to the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition at Washington. Lord Donoughmore, Grand Master of the Masons, and Miss Hope Hawkins, daughter of the late Sir Anthony Hope Hawkins, have been named as the first of the donors. William Clive Rogers, a well-known London artist, has been named as the first of the donors. The collection of Rodins is a gift from the French people to the American people.



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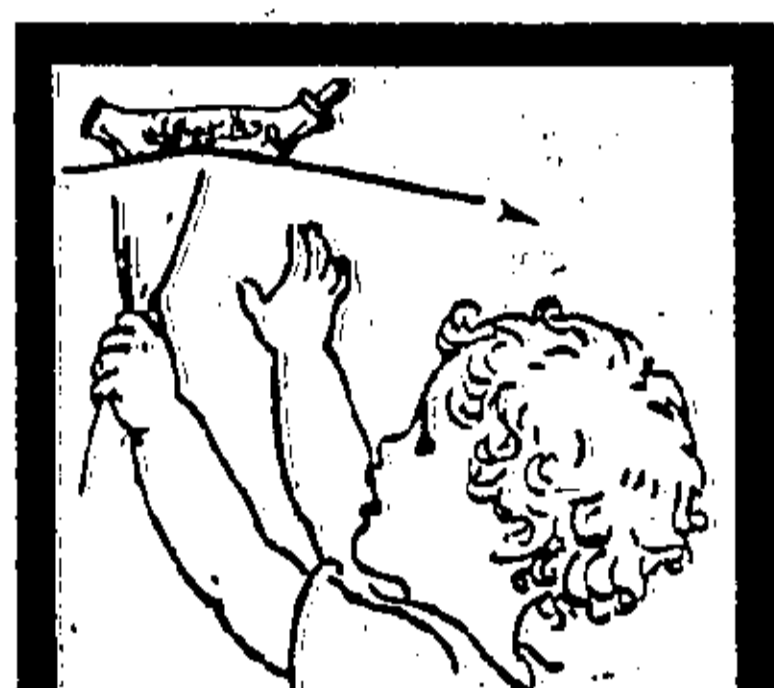
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# ODDS AND ENDS

## Scientists Look Ahead.

There was a suggestion of Well-shan prophecy in the presidential address which Professor W. A. Parks, of Toronto, read on "Cultural Aspects in Geology" at the British Association's meeting at Southampton last week. He said that variation in climate will greatly affect the activities of the human race within a measurable number of years, and it is possible that the sites of our present centres of civilisation will be buried under glaciers, and that a new civilisation will occupy, under a genial climate, the present inhospitable regions around the Poles. Professor Parks believes that the inconceivably long duration of the earth itself and of life probably constitutes a guarantee of a similar extension into the future. He said that if the earth, which is constantly adjusting its structure, became perfectly rigid it would be a tremendous calamity. This condition, declared the Professor, the universal deluge is in sight, geologically speaking, and the end of the present order of things must inevitably ensue. Earthquakes therefore are not to be regarded as unmixer calamities; they are evidence that the fatal rigidity has not yet been attained.

## The Milky Way.

The greatest fact about stellar distribution is that by far the greater number of stars are found among those constellations that are traversed by the Milky Way. This belt, often called the Galaxy, shows up in its full glory only on a brilliant moonless night. To the naked eye it looks like a broad wash of white paint on the celestial vault. It is an arch going right across the sky from horizon to horizon. It is continued through the constellations of the southern hemisphere, which are below our horizon, and therefore unseen by us. In fact, it forms a flat ring that envelope the region of space occupied by the

solar system. What looks to the naked eye like whitewash has its wonderful structure disclosed, even in a very small telescope, as consisting of myriads of stars too feeble to be distinguished by the naked eye. Larger telescopes reveal fainter, more distant stars. The most distant stars in the Galaxy that our telescopes have hitherto reached are ten thousand million times fainter than some of the first-magnitude stars. In the Milky Way we are thus limited only by the power of our telescopes. In all other directions, except on or near the Milky Way, the increase in power of telescopes does not go on adding prodigiously to the number of these faint stars, for the most distant stars in regions clear of the Milky Way are much closer to us than those in the region of the Milky Way. In fact, it is known that, inside the flat, extended ring of space containing the stars of the Galaxy, there is a nearly globular space, generally described as "bird-shaped," filled with almost all the stars of our stellar universe that are not in the ring of the Galaxy. Professor George Forbes in "Chambers's Journal."

## Tess's Village.

The tiny Dorset village with the queer name of Wool, which is to be sold, figures as Wellbridge in Hardy's "Tess of the D'Urbervilles," but is only briefly mentioned (says the "Star"). It was there Tess and Angel Clare went after their wedding, and there Tess made her fatal confession. Hardy writes: "They drove by the level road along the valley to a distance of a few miles, and reaching Wellbridge, turned away from the village to the left, and over the great Elizabethan bridge, which gives the place half its name. Immediately behind it stood the house where they had engaged lodgings—once portion of a fine manorial residence, and the property and seat of a D'Urberville, but since its partial demolition a farmhouse." Mr. Hardy has a great liking for this ancient farmhouse but he confesses that the old lady who had it when his novel was published told him she would never have allowed him to examine the place "if she had known what trouble the book would bring her" offspring.

## Rhymes for Dahlia.

We have had many songs about roses and violets and daisies blowing; verses have been written in praise of pretty little pansy faces; even the banana has had its poet. But no one seems to have thought of writing an ode to the dahlia, (points out the "Star"). Therefore I shall be interested to hear the result of the National Dahlia Society's efforts to find a dahlia poet. At the invitation of the Society, short poems on the dahlia have been sent in to the Hon. Secretary, and to the writer of this ode, adjudged to be the best. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, has consented to present a suitable prize.

## "Babies" of the Zoo.

Several interesting additions have been made recently to the Scottish Zoological Park. The most recent arrivals are two "baby" tighnais, which were born there last week, says an Edinburgh paper. The tighnai is an antelope, somewhat minuscule and lacking in the grace and beauty one usually associates with its kindred. The young are, like young antelopes or deer, most dainty and pretty. The breeding of the king penguins has become an established annual event, at least so far as egg-laying carries it, and the appearance of the first egg is always anxiously but somewhat confidently looked for. For the most part this egg has been laid about the middle of June, and a second by another bird shortly after; but this year, for some unknown reason, it was not until the 19th of August that the first egg appeared, and the second female has not as yet laid, but seems content to do without an egg of her own and to share in the incubation of the other. In former years the penguin colony was always much excited over the first egg, and much fighting took place for possession of it, but this year it was accepted very much as a matter of course. Another recent birth in the Park is that of a "baby" rhesus monkey. This is no longer a novelty, as it is the fourth young one born to the same pair, but the interest and amusement it affords are mending, particularly when the mother is compelled to correct her mischievous offspring.

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